THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): As per the information furnished by Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), a subordinate office of Ministry of Mines, the number of places and locations where gold and diamond mining is carried out in the country in the private sector and public sector is as below:

Gold:- There are three places where minning is carried out *viz.* Hutti Gold Mines and Uti Gold Mines of M/s Hutti Gold Mines Company Limited which is a Government of Karnataka undertaking and M/s Manmohan Industries (P) Ltd which is in the private sector. First two mines are located in Raichur District of Karnataka and third in Singhbhum East District in Jharkhand.

Diamond:- There is only one mine where diamond mining is carried out *viz.* Majgawan village in Panna district of Madhya Pradesh by M/s National Mineral Development Corporation Limited which is a Central Government Public Sector Undertaking.

Growth Rate of Industries

12828. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA: SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that growth rate of industries in metal sector has been 9 per cent while dividends have gone up by 14 per cent upto the month of September, 2005;

(b) if not, the fact in this regard and whether it is also a fact that prices of raw material required for industries have increased upto 17 per cent; and

(c) if not, the actual position in this regard and the reasons for increase in dividends despite increase in cost of production as compared to sale prices?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) to (c) As per the latest index of industrial production for the months of April-October for the year 2005-06, the percentage growth in "Basic Metal and Alloy Industries" sub-sector during the said period has been 15.8%. As per available information, the wholesale price index for the metallic minerals group rose from 333.2 on 2.4.2005 to 494.9 on 29.10.2005. Companies are expected to declare dividends as per the relevant provisions of the companies Act, 1956.

Gold Production

2829. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of the indigenous production of gold per annum and the extent to which it meets the domestic requirement;

(b) the main sources of gold in the country; and

(c),the steps taken by Government to increase the production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) As per the information furnished by Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), a subordinate office of Ministry of Mines, the total production of gold ore during 2004-05 was 590 thousand tonnes with an average grade of 6.08 grams per tonne of gold. The total production of primary gold during 2004-05 was 3526 Kg. gold in the country is mainly consumed in unorganized sector. Therefore, there are no firm estimates of consumption of gold in the country. Very rough estimates suggest that consumption of gold in India is about 800 tonnes per annum.

(b) At present Hutti Gold Mines Company Limited (HGML), a Government of Karnataka undertaking, is the main producer of gold in the country.

(c) Government of India has issued a number of reconnaissance